

## CHAPTER 4.5

### GUPTAS

#### **1. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN A WORD OR SENTENCE EACH.**

1. Who was the founder of Gupta dynasty?

A: Sri Gupta.

2. When did the Gupta Era commence?

A: 320 CE

3. Who composed the Allahabad Pillar Inscription?

A: Harisena.

4. Which inscription of Samudragupta reveal his expeditions?

A: Allahabad Pillar Inscription.

5. Who is author of Kavyamimamse?

A: Rajashekara.

6. Who was the greatest king of the Gupta dynasty?

A: Samudragupta

7. Which Gupta ruler performed Ashwamedha sacrifice?

A: Samudragupta

8. Who had the title 'Kaviraja'?

A: Samudragupta.

9. Who wrote Shakunthala?  
A: Kalidasa.

10. Who wrote Aryabhatia?  
A: Aryabhata.

11. Who had the title Vikramaditya?  
A: Chandragupta II.

12. Who wrote Amarakosha?  
A: Amarasimha.

13. Who wrote Brihatsamithe?  
A: Varahamihira.

14. Who wrote Gho-ko-ki?  
A: Fa-Hien.

15. Name the author of Kiratarjuniyam.  
A: Bharavi.

16. Who is called 'the Father of Indian Medicine'?  
A: Dhanwanthri.

17. In which place is the Iron Pillar of the Gupta age found?  
A: Mehrauli near Delhi.

**II. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN TWO WORDS OR TWO SENTENCES EACH.**

1. Which were the two capitals of the Guptas?

- A: 1) Pataliputra  
2) Ujjain

2. Which inscription describes the conquest of Samudragupta? Who composed it?

- A: a) Allahabad Pillar inscription  
b) Harisena

3. Name any two poets of the Gupta period.

- A: 1) Kalidasa  
2) Vishakadatta

4. Mention any two works of Kalidasa.

- A: a) Shakuntala  
b) Meghadutta.

5. Who was Fa-hien? Why did he come to India?

- A: a) Fa-hien was Chinese traveler who came to India during the rule of Chandragupta II.  
b) He came to India to study Buddhism.

6. Name any two sources which helps us to know about Gupta history.

- A: a) Allahabad pillar inscription  
b) Works of Kalidasa.

7. Name any two North Indian rulers defeated by Samudragupta.

- A: a) Nandin  
b) Balavarman.

8. Name any two South Indian kingdoms defeated by Samudragupta.

- A: a) Mahendra of Kosala  
b) Ugrasena of Palakad.

9. Name any two well known universities of the Gupta period.

- A: a) Nalanda university  
b) Takshashila university.

10. Name any two works of Varahamihira.

- A: a) Brihat Jataka  
b) Brihat Samhite.

11. Name any two architectural centers of the Gupta period.

- A: a) Mathura.  
b) Benaras.

### III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 15 TO 20 SENTENCES EACH.

1. Explain the conquests of Samudragupta.

A: Samudragupta was the greatest of the Gupta rulers. His conquests and qualities are written in the Allahabad Pillar inscription composed by Harisena. His conquests can be divided into four groups:

a) North Indian Campaign:

He conquered the provinces of the Gangetic plains called 'Aryavarta' and also defeated 9 kings in North India and annexed their kingdoms. He called it as 'Digvijaya'. Nandin, Balavarman were among these.

b) South Indian Campaign:

Samudragupta travelled 3000 miles to the south and defeated 12 kings. But he reinstated them to their respective positions and they became his vassals. This was called 'Dharmavijaya'. Mahendra of Kosala and Ugrasena of Palakad were among these.

c) Conquests of forest kingdoms:

He conquered the forest kingdoms of Jabalपुरa, Reva, Nagapura and Bhaghelkhand in Central India.

d) Conquests of border states:

He conquered the border states of Kamarupa in Assam, Samatata in Bengal, Karthripura in Punjab and Rohilkhand.

After this, he performed 'Ashwamedha' sacrifice. His empire extended from Kashmir in the North, Bengal in the East, Tamil Nadu in the South and Punjab in the West.

#### **IV. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING IN 30 TO 40 SENTENCES.**

1. Why is Gupta age called "The Golden Age" in Indian history?

A: Gupta Age is known as the Golden age in the history of India because of the all-round development this age saw. There was extra-ordinary development in the field of religion, education, literature, art and architecture, science and technology. It is compared with the age of Pericles of Greece, Augustus Ceaser of Rome, Queen Elizabeth of England.

Revival of Hinduism: the Gupta emperors were followers of Hinduism, at the same time were tolerant towards other religions like Buddhism and Jainism. They worshipped Vishnu, Shiva and Durga. They performed vedic rites and sacrifices like Ashwamedha.

Education: the kings themselves were great scholars and paid great attention to education. There were a number of universities like Nalanda, Takshashila, Ajantha and Saranatha. The important subjects taught were Puranas, literature, philosophy, arithmetic, astrology and science.

Literature: the Gupta age is known as 'the Golden age for Sanskrit literature'. Samudragupta has been described as the king among poets in the Allahabad Pillar inscription. He was a gifted musician and great scholar of Vedas. There were Navaratnas in the court of Chandragupta II. Kalidasa was the greatest poet and dramatist of ancient India. He wrote Shakuntala and Meghadutta and many other works.

Science and Technology: tremendous progress was achieved in the field of Science, maths, astronomy, medicine and metallurgy. Aryabhata was the greatest mathematician and astronomer of this period. He wrote the book 'Aryabhatia' and described about the decimal system in that. Brahmagupta was another mathematician. He showed the importance of zero.

Varahamihira was a great scientist and had great authority on Astronomy, Botany, Mathematics, Geography. He wrote Brihat Jataka and Brihat Samhite. In the field of medicine, Charaka and Sushruta wrote 'Samhithes'. Dhanwanthri known as the "Father of Indian Medicine (Ayurveda)" wrote Asthanga Samgraha during this period.

The Mehrauli iron pillar discovered near Delhi shows their metallurgical skill as it has not rusted or lost its strength.

Art and architecture:

The basic structural features of temple architecture developed during this period. Mathura, Benaras, Patna etc. were centers of their art. A number of statues of Lord Buddha were also erected.

They also gave special attention to painting. They painted the scenes from the life of Buddha. They also built many cave temples in Ajanta.